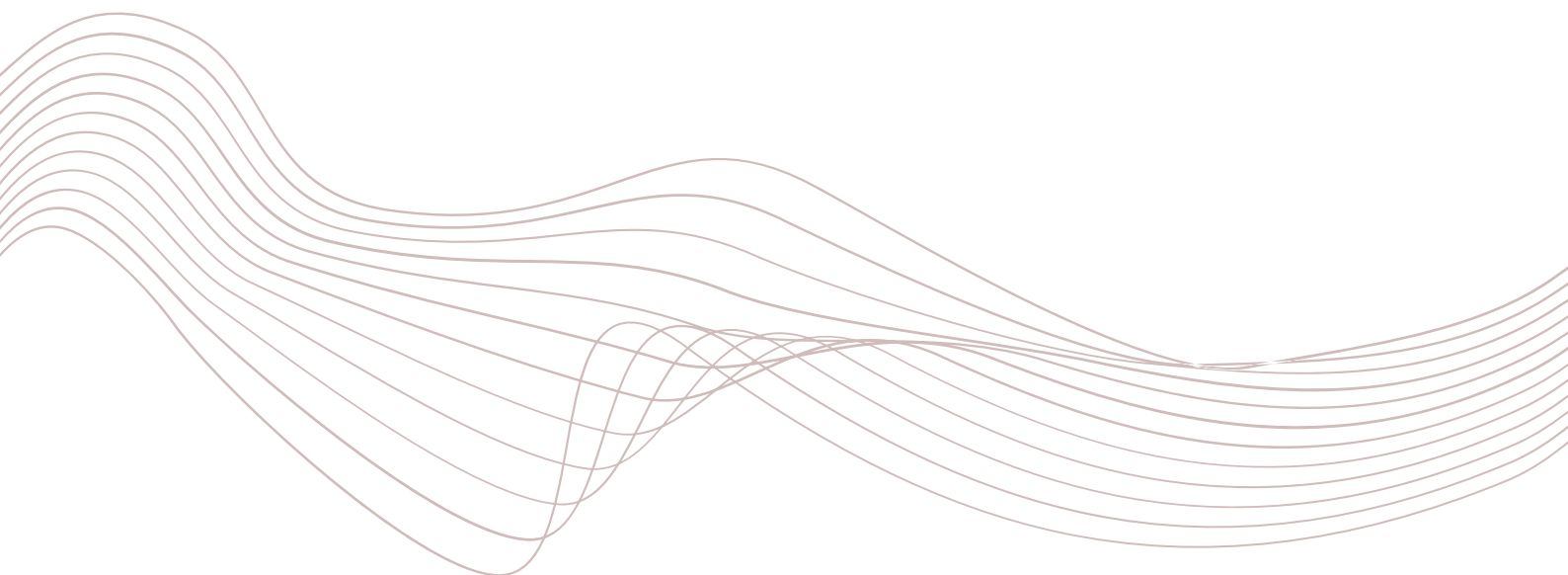




Rushcliffe Spencer
Academy

KS3 LITERACY RECOMMENDATIONS



Welcome!

This collection of books has been chosen based on the following criteria:

- The books are all available from the school LRC.
- They are selected to be accessible to all students, including Literacy Intervention Students. If they can't be independently accessed, they can be read out loud by parents/carers at home.
- The content of the books is meant to appeal to a variety of ages and interests and not to be too childish.

This is not an exhaustive list. It is here to give you a starting point in libraries and book shops.

Please do not hesitate to contact the LRC at :
learningresourcecentre@rushcliffespencer.org.uk if you would like further suggestions.



Further Resources

ePlatform

Alongside our physical collection, Rushcliffe Spencer Academy subscribes to ePlatform, an ebook and audiobook resource. Audiobooks are a great way for students who struggle with and/or are reluctant readers of physical texts to access a wide range of books.

You can explore the collection here:

<https://rushcliffe.eplatform.co/> and your student can use their regular school email and password to sign in and borrow books.

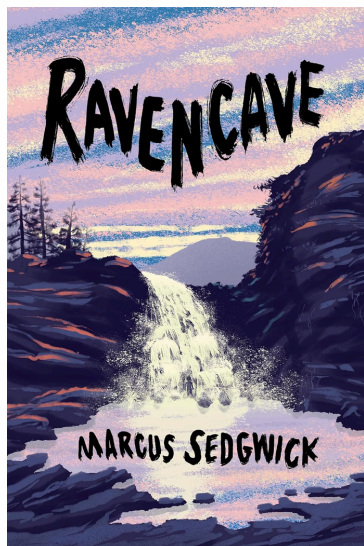
World Book Day Books

World Book Day books are a perfect introduction to some really great authors and series. They are shorter stories that often lead into some of the most popular series in our library such as *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, *Dragon Realm*, and *A Murder Most Unladylike* among others.

Quick Reads, Short Stories, and Graphic Novels

Most of the genre sections in the LRC have an associated '**Quick Reads**' section. This section will include dyslexic friendly, easy-to-read, and shorter books of that genre. We also have a **short stories** section with collections of short stories that may feel more accessible to students. **Graphic novels** are illustration led stories that can be appealing to students, including reluctant readers. They are often adaptations of standard novels and can help bridge the gap to reading longer texts.

Ravencave by Marcus Sedgwick



On holiday in Yorkshire, James is bored out of his mind being dragged around various old ruins as his dad tries to trace his family's roots. Then one day James hears mischievous laughter and the ghost of a young girl appears to him at Crackpot Hall. When the girl first urges James to follow him, he's afraid and runs away. When she appears again, he goes after her. This leads to a gruesome discovery that reveals a terrible truth about his family.

Genres: Horror, Suspense

Jon for Short by Malorie Blackman

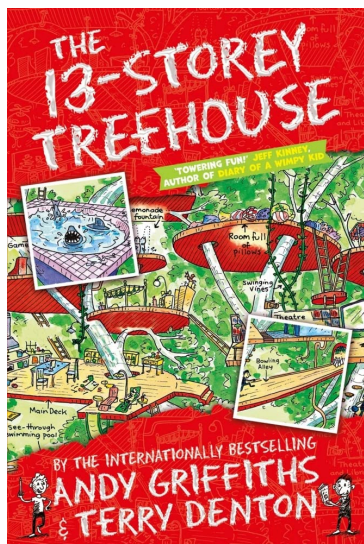


Jon keeps waking up from a recurring bad dream to find that he is missing his arms and parts of his legs. Kept constantly sedated, as Jon's body disappears his nightmare gets worse. The nurses seem to hate him and the doctor won't answer his questions. Who is Joe? Why do they keep calling him by that name?

Tense and horrifying, Malorie Blackman's chilling tale compels the reader to its chilling climax.

Genres: Horror, Suspense

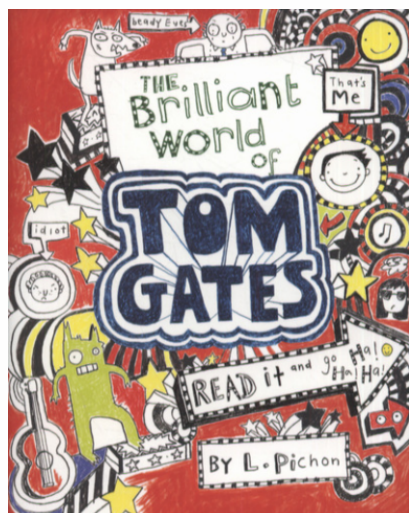
The 13-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton



Andy and Terry live in the WORLD'S BEST treehouse! It's got a giant catapult, a secret underground laboratory, a tank of man-eating sharks and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you're hungry! Just watch out for the sea monkeys, and the monkeys pretending to be sea monkeys, and the giant mutant mermaid sea monster... Oh, and, whatever you do, don't get trapped in a burp-gas-filled bubble...

Genre: Humour

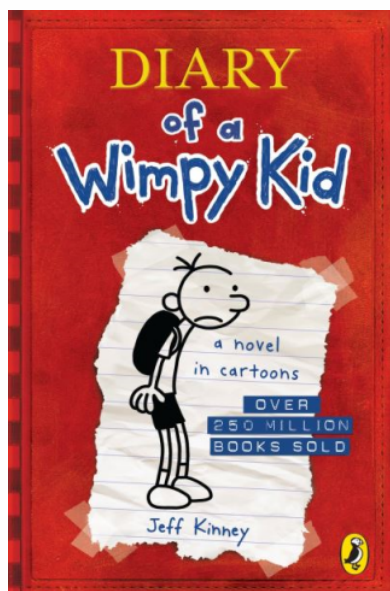
The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon



Tom Gates is the master of excuses for late homework: dog attacks, spilt water, and lightning. Tom's exercise book is full of his doodles, cartoons, and thoughts, as well as comments from his long-suffering teacher, Mr Fullerton. After gaining five merits for his 'Camping Sucks' holiday story, Tom's work starts to go downhill - which is a pity, as he's desperate to impress Amy Porter, who sits next to him...

Genre: Humour

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney



Let me get something straight: this is a JOURNAL, not a diary. This was Mum's idea, not mine. But if she thinks I'm going to write down my 'feelings' in here or whatever, she's crazy. The only reason I agreed to do this at all is because I figure later on when I'm rich and famous, this book is gonna come in handy. But for now I'm stuck with a bunch of morons. Today is the first day of school, so I figured I might as well write in this book to pass the time.

This is the first book in an extremely popular and approachable series.

Genre: Diary

Head Kid by David Baddiel



A maestro of practical jokes, Ryan has played so many tricks that in the end the Head Teacher just walks out. Then the new Head Teacher, Mr Carter, arrives. He is a man so strict even the teachers are scared of him. Imagine his surprise – and Ryan's – when they swap bodies.

Genre: Humour

Starting Eleven by Bali Rai



The local youth club are putting an under-elevens squad together, and Dal, Chris, Abs and Jason are determined to be picked. They know they're the best players in their school, but what if that isn't good enough and they don't make the team? Dal knows he'd be gutted if his mates made it and he didn't. Once the team is picked, they have to do the business on the pitch - go out and win! Complicating things, their coach has a couple of surprise new players to help the team...

Genre: Sport

Dream On by Bali Rai

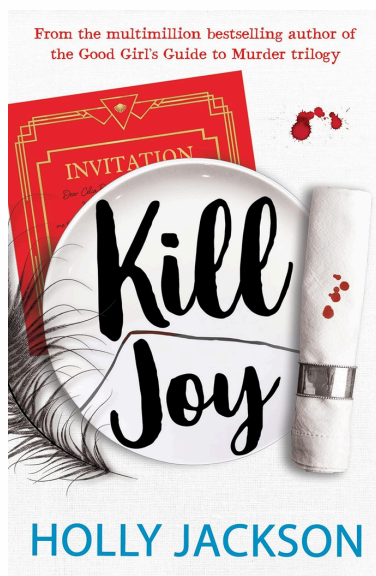


A witty and warm sports drama from teen favourite Bali Rai.

While Baljit shovels chips in his dad's chippy, he dreams of football stardom. Then the chance of a lifetime comes along – a trial for the Premier League. Baljit is sure his parents will disapprove, so he lies to cover up his plans to try out. Will Baljit's parents cost him his dream, or will his own lies trip him up?

Genre: Sport

Kill Joy by Holly Jackson

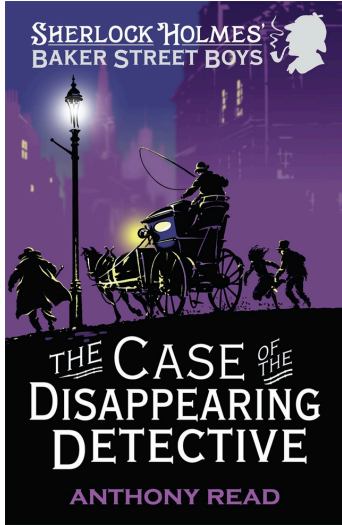


Find out where it all began for Pip in this prequel to the best-selling *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*.

Pippa Fitz-Amobi is not in the mood for her friend's murder mystery party, especially one that involves 1920's fancy dress and pretending that their town, Little Kilton, is an island called Joy. Once the game begins, Pip finds herself drawn into the make-believe world of intrigue, deception and murder.

Genre: Crime

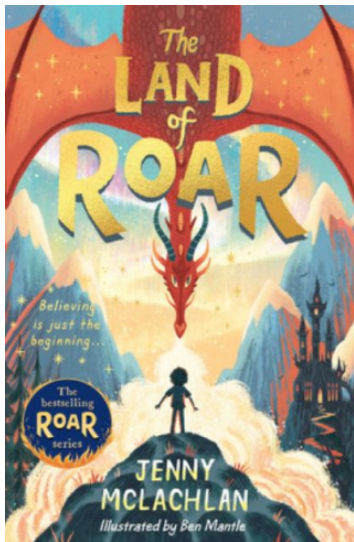
***The Case of the Disappearing Detective* by Anthony Read**



It is 1897, Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee year, and the Baker Street Boys are helping Sherlock Holmes to solve a case involving a mysterious American when Holmes himself disappears. Only the Boys realize that he hasn't gone undercover but has actually been kidnapped by a Fenian gang from Boston who are planning to assassinate the Queen!

Genre: Crime

***The Land of Roar* by Jenny McLachlan**

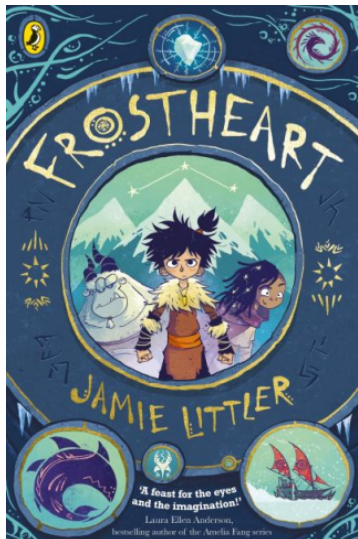


When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved – dragons, mermaids, ninja wizards and adventure – as well as things that scared them (including a very creepy scarecrow...)

Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. Then one day as they help Grandad clean out the attic, Arthur is horrified as Grandad is pulled into the folding bed and vanishes. Is he playing a joke? Or is Roar ... real?

Genre: Fantasy

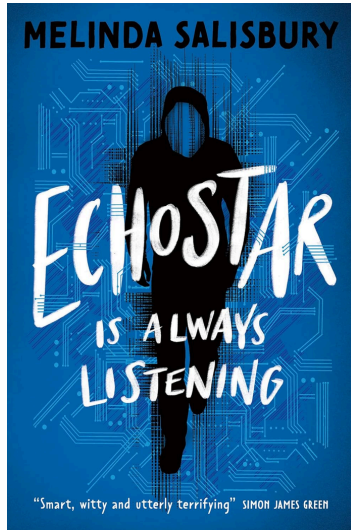
***Frostheart* by Jamie Littler**



Way out in the furthest part of the known world, a tiny stronghold exists all on its own, cut off from the rest of human-kind by monsters that lurk beneath the Snow Sea. There, a boy called Ash waits for the return of his parents, singing a forbidden lullaby to remind him of them and doing his best to avoid his very, very grumpy yeti guardian, Tobu. But life is about to get a whole lot more crazy-adventurous for Ash. When a brave rescue attempt reveals he has amazing magical powers, he's whisked aboard the Frostheart, a sleigh packed full of daring explorers who could use his help. Can they also help him find his family?

Genre: Fantasy

EchoStar is Always Listening by Melinda Salisbury



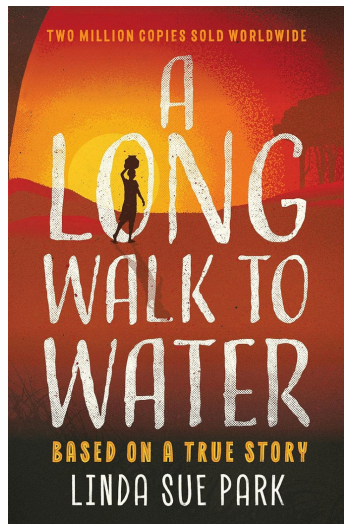
Ruby Brookes and her best friend, Deva, have won free places at the Ash Tree Foundation Performing Arts Camp over the summer, but only if their school grades seriously improve. When Deva suddenly starts getting high marks in all their subjects, leaving Ruby behind, Ruby is confused and jealous.

Until she finds out Deva's success is down to EchoStar, a new app that's helping her get ahead.

Ruby is desperate to start using it too, but there is much more to EchoStar than she has imagined. EchoStar is **always** watching and listening ...

Genre: Science Fiction

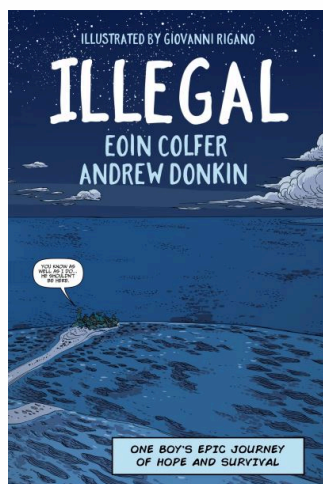
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park



A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home. She makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels, to contact with killer lions and crocodiles. Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

Genres: Multicultural, Historical

Illegal: One Boy's Epic Journey of Hope and Survival by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin

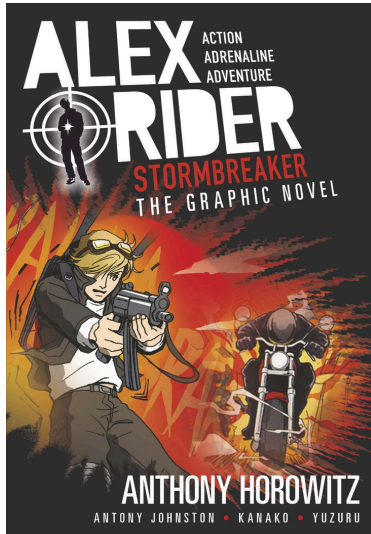


Ebo is alone. His sister left months ago. Now his brother has disappeared too, and Ebo knows it can only be to make the hazardous journey to Europe.

Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. With every step he holds on to his hope for a new life and a reunion with his sister.

Genres: Graphic Novel, Multicultural

The Alex Rider Graphic Novel Series by Anthony Horowitz

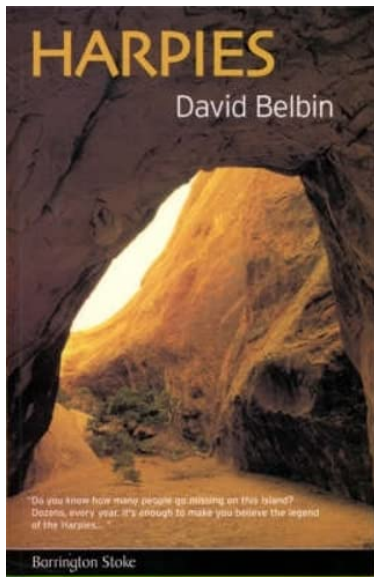


These graphic novel adaptations are a great introduction to this wildly popular series by Anthony Horowitz.

Forcibly recruited into MI6 after the mysterious death of his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex is sent to infiltrate the organization of a sinister billionaire. Within days he's gone from schoolboy to superspy - and it looks like his first assignment may be his last...

Genre: Adventure

Harpies by David Belbin



Cassie should be having the time of her life. She's on holiday on a Greek island and there are plenty of boys around. Her elder brother, Ben, is meant to be keeping an eye on her. Ben, however, is more interested in his new love, Carla, leaving Cassie free to hang out with available boys. But something's wrong. Ben's girlfriend isn't what she seems and people keep vanishing. Cassie needs to figure out what is happening, and fast!

Genre: Young Adult, Family Stories

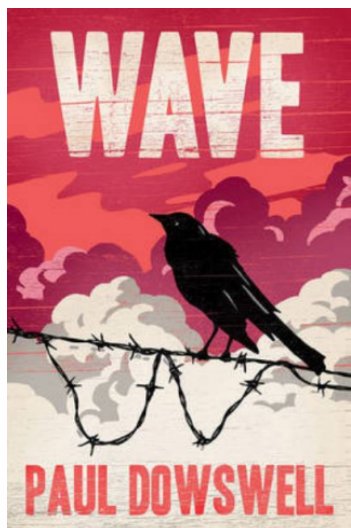
The Disconnect by Keren David



Could you disconnect from your phone for six weeks? An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that, and the winners will walk away with £1,000. For Esther, whose dad, sister and baby nephew live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit ... But can she really stay disconnected for long enough to win?

Genre: Friendship

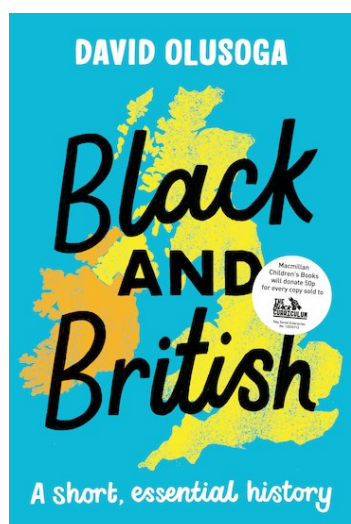
Wave by Paul Dowswell



Brothers Eddie and Charlie find a photo of the great-great-uncles they were named after and discover an amazing story of WWI, at the Front and back at home. Assured that the Germans have been destroyed by bombardment, the earlier Eddie and Charlie are sent into No Man's Land in the 'First Wave' of the Somme. After Charlie is forced to leave Eddie behind, his life is haunted by grief and guilt.

Genre: Historical

Black and British by David Olusoga



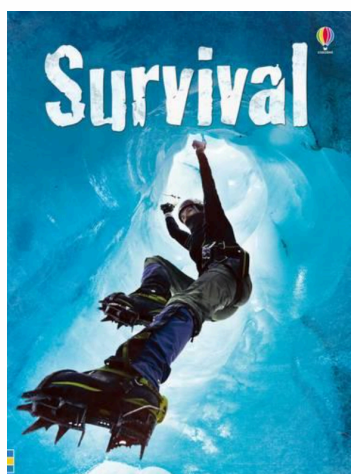
Winner of the Book of the Year, Children's Illustrated and Non-Fiction at The British Book Awards, 2021.

When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution?

These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of Black British history: from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day.

Genre: Non-Fiction, Multicultural

Survival by Henry Brook



Where do you find shelter in rough country? What skills do you need to stay safe in the jungle? How do you protect yourself from a wild animal attack? How can you attract this attention of rescue teams?

Explore amazing true survival stories of people stranded alone in the wildest places on Earth, and learn about simple survival techniques.

Genre: Non-Fiction, Adventure

